

AUSTRALORPES AND AUSTRAWHITES; HONNEGERS AND WHITE
LEGHORNS; NICK CHICKS AND KIMBERCHICKS

Tim Talamantes

as told to Maxine Kortum Durney, 1989

Oh! the KimberChicks {from Niles, California}.
They'd be up in the rafters when you opened the door of the
chicken house. No way that you could sneak up on them.

Nick Chick was the trade name H & N gave their
chick. Heisdorf and Nelson. Art Heisdorf. The Nick Chick had
nickability, had to do with the line of crosses in their breeding
lines. It lost its tail feathers early, its behind would be
bare, an ugly looking bird. But a good layer.

Honneger chickens were lazy, wouldn't get out of each
other's way. The chickens would pile up when you tried to move
them, would just huddle and smother, whereas Kimberchicks flew up
in a cloud.

Mortensen Hatchery, on Baker street, produced the
Honneger chick.

My uncle, Otto Rotthaus, on Chapman Lane, tried all
these birds.

A cross between the Australorpe, which is black, and
the White Leghorn produced a mean bird. My uncle had them in his
house #7. He'd send me down to pick the eggs. I was a kid, had
to roll down my sleeve to reach my hand under the hen. She'd
peck.

The Austrawhite was the name of the cross. It would be
white, except for a feather or two which were black. They were
not a successful breed because their eggs were creamy in color,
and the public wanted white eggs only.

From about 1956 to 1960 I worked for Sales and Bourke
Hatchery, which within that period became H. and N. Hatchery
(Heisdorf and Nelson). My job was to get rid of the cockerells
after the sexers got through. I dumped them into aa garbage can,
and put the lid on. They had to be freshly dead for the mink man
who came at 1 o'clock. The mink man had a truck with a
steellined bed; we dumped the dead chicks into his truck. He
took them to his farm in Shellville, where he ground them up for
his minks.

My boss wanted the chicks all dead, so that someone
couldn't start a new breeding farm with the H & N strain; the
mink man wanted the chicks freshly dead; between those two
considerations, on a big hatchery day, I had to work like hell,

filled six or eight garbage cans, and was putting the lid on the last just as the milk man arrived.

On the other hand, the hatchery would give to its trusted customers a bonus of cockerell chicks to raise to eat. A dozen or so, if they were wanted, for each hundred chicks.

The sexers were itinerant at the smaller hatcheries, but employed full time at the big hatcheries, in season.

(If eggs were to go to the Poultry Producers, they had to be sized, and candled (held against a light) for cracks and blood spots. If they failed the test they went to the baker.)

PETALUMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Oral History Program

Unconditional Release Agreement

For and in consideration of the participation by the Petaluma Historical Museum in any programs involving the dissemination of tape-recorded memoirs and oral history material for publication, copyright, and other uses, I hereby release all right, title, or interest in any and to all of my tape-recorded memoirs to the Petaluma Historical Museum and declare that they may be used without any restriction whatsoever and may be copyrighted and published by the said Museum, which may also assign said copyright and publication rights to serious research scholars.

In addition to the rights and authority given to you under the preceeding paragraph, I hereby authorize you to edit, publish, sell and/or license the use of my oral history memoir in any other manner which the Museum considers to be desirable and I waive any claim to any payments which may be received as a consequence thereof by the Museum.

PLACE 2968 Middle Twin Road Rd
Petaluma, Cal. 94452

DATE 12/1/87

F. Talamante
(Interviewee)

(for the Petaluma Historical Museum)

• PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Family History Questionnaire

	Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Deceased? Date
Parents*	Philip A. TALAMANTES	11/30/07	Petaluma	1995
	Helen V. Rothhaus TALAMANTES	6/10/11	Petaluma	2/21/85
Brothers & Sisters	Philip A Talamantes JR.	12/3/35	Petaluma	
	Barbara J. Purcell	6/8/39	Petaluma	
Grand-parents*	Patrick Anthony Talamantes	3/17/1878	Petaluma	7/22/1960
	Leonora Catherine Koppers	11/20/1889	Petaluma	7/13/1967
	Herman August Dieterich Rothhaus	12/27/1823	Renslage Germany	9/18/1966
	Verna Catherine Eislage	9/18/1881	Menslage Germany	6/2/1974
Spouse	Janet ANN Munch	3/1/1944	Petaluma	
Children	ANN Margaret Talamantes	5/23/1967	Petaluma	
	Wendy Catherine	1/2/1972	Petaluma	
Grandchildren				

*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.

THANK YOU!

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name TALAMANTES, Timothy Richard
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 2968 Middle Two Rock Rd
Petaluma, Calif. 94952

Marital status: Married ☒ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

Birthdate 4/19/42 Birthplace Petaluma

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) all my life

Education: Elementary school Philip Sward, Washington Graham, LIPOLD PRIMARY

Secondary school Petaluma JR & SR High schools Grad yes

College Santa Rosa Junior college Grad yes

Other ()

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) Gardener, Nursery worker and owner,
Carpenter

Travels Pacific coast, OHIO, Kentucky

Organizations, clubs Petaluma Host Lions, Los Californianos
Chant member,

Other special interests California natural history

Additional comments _____

THANK YOU!